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**GRAMMYS GO ROCK OR BUST**

Angus Young of AC/DC performs at the 57th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday in Los Angeles. JOHN SHEARER/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survey hints at bump in Oilers ticket prices

Hockey. Current owners of season seats worried new prices will only fit companies



RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Getting up close to the Copper and Blue could cost a lot more if proposed prices the Oilers sent to season-ticket-holders in a survey become a reality.

Current holders got the survey, which identifies a range of possible season ticket options for the new rink, ranging from a high of \$14,400 per seat for new theatre boxes down to \$1,950 for seats in the upper bowl.

The survey makes it clear that the seat prices are not set in stone and asks respondents to weigh in on the cost.

Melanie Gesy, who has had her season tickets for more than a decade, said it was

stunning to see the possible prices.

"We were all shocked at the dollar values they were even contemplating," she said.

Gesy said the prices seem much higher than the current Rexall Place and she believes it's pitched at a corporate audience.

Season-ticket-holder Kerry Rusk said she was disappointed to see only a few different options for seat prices. She said currently in Rexall, the upper bowl has several different price points, but the new arena doesn't seem to have those options.

"If you're sitting in the upper bowl behind the nets you all have one price," she said.

In addition to the upper and lower bowl tickets, the survey offers information on tickets in two lounge spaces, as well as loge seating, which is a cluster of seats around a table.

No one from the Oilers was available to speak with media on Sunday.

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Ridesharing

Uber may face provincial hurdle, as well

If ride-share company Uber manages to steer around the roadblocks in city regulations, they could hit a brick wall with provincial rules.

The city started the process towards a court injunction on Thursday, but has also pledged to continue to work with the company on new regulations that would allow transportation network companies to operate.

If the city does draft new regulations, it will face a provincial hurdle, as well.

The provincial government says anyone who is compensated for driving requires a class-four licence, and that despite Uber's recent move to offer free rides in Edmonton, it's still outside provincial legislation.

"It doesn't matter if Uber isn't charging for rides. If they're paying their drivers they require class-four licenses," said Christine Way, press secretary to transportation minister Wayne Drysdale.

Way said the province doesn't specifically plan any legal action against the company, but expects local law enforcement to enforce existing legislation.

Coun. Scott McKeen said he's pleased the city is continuing to work with the company, but believes the new regulations will require that rideshare companies meet the provincial standards.

"I don't think we're going to bend on 'You need a class-four license and you need commercial insurance,'" he said.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



Aaron Bercovich stands next to a portrait of his grandmother that he created out of Lego. Bercovich and his family have launched a website offering his service — digitizing photos and creating Lego portraits — in Edmonton. LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

Creating works of art a block at a time

Small business. Local Lego artist offers one-of-a-kind portraits



LEAH HOLOIDAY
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For Aaron Bercovich, Lego is more than a hobby — it's a passion.

The 21-year-old Edmonton man, who has autism, first started building with Lego as a way to develop his communication skills, but is now turning his talent for creating intricate models and sculptures into a

marketable skill.

Lego Art by Aaron is a one-of-a-kind business, which promises to transform photos into portraits using Lego and create original nameplates using the tiny building blocks.

Aaron's dad, Marvin Bercovich, said the business allows his son to capitalize on his skills.

"He may be autistic and he doesn't talk much, but he's really good about following instructions, particularly anything that has visual instructions," he said.

Thanks to software that can digitize any image, Aaron uses a photo grid to create an original piece of art.

"When he got out of high school it was quite obvious he wasn't going to be going on to post-secondary education, so we were looking for something for him to do that would be a contribution both to himself and possibly the community," Bercovich said.

Ben Weinlick of Skills Society works with Edmonton families who have adult children with disabilities and has helped Aaron create his business.

"This is just the beginning of launching it and getting it out there," he said.

Weinlick said Aaron's story shows that people with disabilities shouldn't get lumped into devalued roles in society.

Get blocked

Prices vary between \$21 and \$250 for portraits and nameplates featured on Aaron's website. For more details, visit www.legoartbyaaron.com.

"What's really unique and cool about a story like Aaron's, is here's this guy, he has this unique marketable skill around Lego and (now it's) a business and (he has) a valued role as an entrepreneur," he said.

"That's really cool and that's what we need to see more of."

1 NEWS



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The city's transportation department is the biggest offender when it comes to accidents, according to Fleet Safety supervisor Bill Horne, but he said that is because it has the biggest fleet. METRO FILE

City vehicles in more than 1,000 collisions annually

Accidents. Edmonton tracks drivers, investigates crashes



RYAN TUMILTY
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City workers are getting into more than 1,000 motor-vehicle collisions a year, costing more than \$1 million in insurance claims and repairs.

Not including police or Edmonton Transit, the city saw 1,025 crashes in 2012, 1,200

At a glance

Fleet safety supervisor Bill Horne said the majority of the injury collisions involve other vehicles, making last month's fatal collision with a pedestrian exceedingly rare.

in 2013 and 1,206 last year.

The vast majority of those are property-damage collisions, but there are some cases of vandalism.

A small amount of the collisions lead to injuries, with 29 in 2013 and 32 injury collisions last year.

Fleet safety supervisor Bill Horne said his team tries to lower that number when possible, but the city and its road network are both growing.

"If your fleet size is growing all the time and you're travelling more kilometres, your numbers are going to increase," he said.

The cost of the collisions is harder to pin down, but in 2014 the city paid out \$874,559 in third-party claims, while also receiving \$118,559 back from other insurance companies.

In 2013 the city paid out

\$1,063,874 in claims and received \$351,828 back. The city also paid for \$694,616 in body work for city vehicles. Some of that is covered under insurance, but the majority is an additional cost.

Horne said the city is constantly investigating collisions to determine what happened and also has an internal demerit system for city drivers.

"We manage it that way and if someone gets too many demerits on their city permit, they are suspended from driving for a period of time."

Sports. Soccer mom helps create needed kids' team

Tired of driving her daughter out of Oliver to play in a soccer league, Heather MacKenzie thought it was time to sign her daughter up for a soccer team a bit closer to home.

But to her surprise, there weren't any soccer teams in the downtown or Oliver communities, so she helped start one.

This summer will be the first time kids from the downtown or Oliver area aged three and four will be able to play as part of a soccer team on their home turf.

"My idea was to run it jointly because Oliver and downtown tend to work together well on a lot of initiatives," she said.

The co-ordinator of the soccer league is looking to get enough children signed up to create two teams who will just play against each other for fun.

Five kids are already pre-registered for the Urban Kids preschool soccer team, which



Grace Wheeler, daughter of the co-ordinator of the new soccer league. COURTESY HEATHER MACKENZIE

already has a sponsor to help keep the cost down to \$20 a child. The six-week-long season starts May 26 for the first game night, with official registration kicking off Feb. 15.

Anyone interested in participating can contact mackenzie.heather@gmail.com.

STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

Cyclists

City draws big numbers for Bike to Work sign-up

Edmonton cyclists aren't going down without a fight when it comes to a friendly online competition. With Winter Bike Day kicking off Feb. 13, local cyclists have been campaigning hard to get riders signing up.

As of Friday afternoon, Edmonton was trailing closely behind Winnipeg and Calgary, Western Canada's most registered cities for the one-day event marking winter cycling. Edmonton was sitting at 114 registered cyclists, with 160 for Calgary and 144 for Winnipeg. METRO

Mayerthorpe

RCMP investigate after woman found dead

Mayerthorpe RCMP have found a 34-year-old woman dead inside a vehicle on the Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation.

Police were called Sunday morning on reports of a woman who had been shot inside a vehicle. The Edmonton Major Crimes Unit and the Forensic Identification Section were on scene Sunday assisting in the investigation.

Police believe the victim and person responsible are known to each other and have located the firearm used in the incident.

STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

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Student union concerned about bursary criteria

University of Alberta. President concerned eligibility requirements favour those most likely to succeed, leaving others marginalized



LEAH HOLODIY
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With more financial support up for grabs for the University of Alberta's international students, the institution's student leaders are questioning if it's going to those who need it most.

Since last year, the U of A has more than doubled emergency bursaries for international students — upping the available support from \$125,000 in 2013-2014 to \$278,000 budgeted for the current school year.

The bursary, which is designed for students who find themselves in a sticky financial situation for a variety of reasons, can receive up to \$3,000 to help cover three months of living expenses, said Lisa Collins, U of A's vice-provost and university registrar.

Collins said the university recognizes that circumstances for every student

are unique and the emergency bursaries are administered accordingly.

"Our commitment is to support them as best as we can, recognizing of course that resources are limited and we need to allocate them fairly," she said.

This year alone, the university has received 60 student applications for the bursary, which is up from 51 applications last year.

While the bursary is funded through international student differential fees, U of A Student Union president William Lau questioned if the bursary might marginalize certain students.

"Looking at their eligibility criteria, they fund students most likely to succeed," he said. "I think that's one area where, understandably from their perspective, they want to fund students with satisfactory academic criteria and they fund students they're more likely to retain and keep on campus."

Lau said some students who might not be performing well academically due to financial pressures could miss out on the bursary.

"I would have to say we could do a much better job pulling students out of the gutter," he said.

Soldier presumed dead in avalanche

Sgt. Mark Anthony Saleses had just completed an arduous and world-famous ice-climbing route in the northern portion of Banff National Park and was about halfway done with the descent when he was caught in an avalanche and swept off a 60-metre cliff. He is presumed dead.

"My only consolation at this time is that Mark was doing what he loved best," said his mother, Liz Quinn,

on Saturday afternoon from her home in Moncton, N.B., while Parks Canada officials conducted avalanche control on the slopes above the site where they believe her son was buried by snow some 48 hours earlier.

Brian Webster, Parks Canada incident commander for the search operation, said the overhead avalanche risk made it simply "too dangerous" on Saturday to send

search crews into the area, after initially flying over the site Friday and assessing that "the climber had been completely buried in the avalanche."

The avalanche occurred when the climber was traversing a snow slope from one pitch of ice to another on the nine-pitch route, Webster said.

"It was a small avalanche but it pushed the climber

over a 60-metre cliff," Webster said.

On Sunday, with the avalanche control successful, Webster said a team of six visitor safety specialists and two dog handlers flew to the site by helicopter and began conducting a ground search.

"It's a difficult area to access and it'll be a difficult area to search," he said.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO IN CALGARY, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



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B.C. community evacuated post-snowstorm

Heavy snow blankets houses as residents of Kitimat, B.C., dig out Saturday afternoon after a snowstorm that left about 180 centimetres piled up, knocking out power and blocking streets. Haisla First Nation Chief Councilor Ellis Ross called for the evacuation early Sunday morning of Kitimaat Village, one of the only areas near the northern B.C. town that remained without power.

ROBIN ROWLAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taxes

Agency can give police evidence

The federal tax agency can now hand police evidence of any serious crime it happens to come across when reviewing tax files. The new authority derives from the federal government's latest omnibus bill. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Seal meat

Cherry responds to online outrage

Don Cherry has replied to the furor from Inuit communities after he called co-host Ron MacLean a "savage" and a "barbarian" for eating seal meat.

He stated he has no problem with people who hunt seal and eat their meat.

However, Cherry added that he finds it "unusual" for someone to "go into a restaurant and order a seal burger for lunch."

Cherry's controversial comments came on his Coach's Corner segment Saturday night on the Hockey Night in Canada broadcast when MacLean joined the program via satellite and said he had ordered a seal burger for lunch. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Fahmy faces retrial on terror charges

Cairo. Mohamed Fahmy gave up his Egyptian citizenship to secure his release; now he faces a Feb. 12 court date

Canadian journalist Mohamed Fahmy is set to face a retrial on terrorism-related charges in Cairo this Thursday, a development his family called their "worst nightmare."

Fahmy — who has spent more than a year in an Egyptian prison — was expected to be set free after former Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said just days ago that his release was "imminent."

But Fahmy's family said Sunday the 40-year-old journalist and his Egyptian colleague will now be re-tried on Feb. 12.

"The trial date on Feb. 12 represents our worst nightmare, to have to go through another circus of a retrial," said Fahmy's brother, Adel.

Fahmy and two colleagues — Australian Peter Greste and Egyptian Baher Mohamed — were working for satellite



Mohamed Fahmy appears in a Cairo courtroom on March 31, 2014.
HEBA ELKHOLY, EL SHOROUK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

news broadcaster Al Jazeera English when they were arrested on Dec. 29, 2013.

They were accused of supporting the banned Islamist Muslim Brotherhood group of ousted Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi. They were also charged with fabricating footage to undermine Egypt's national security.

The trio denied all the allegations against them, but Fah-

Quoted

"The trial date on Feb. 12 represents our worst nightmare, to have to go through another circus of a retrial."

Adel, brother of jailed Canadian journalist Mohamed Fahmy

Canadian response

Lynne Yelich, minister of state for foreign affairs and consular affairs, said the Canadian government has continued to advocate for Fahmy's immediate release at the highest levels.

my and Greste were sentenced to seven years in prison, while Mohamed was given 10 years.

Greste was freed last Sunday under legislation that allows Egypt's president to deport foreigners convicted or accused of crimes.

Fahmy — who had dual Egyptian-Canadian citizenship — had relinquished his Egyptian citizenship with the hope of being released under the same legislation.

"The authorities visited him before the appeal hearing on Jan. 1 and made a deal with him to renounce it in return for his freedom," Fahmy's brother said.

The family said Amal Clooney, Fahmy's high-profile human rights lawyer, has requested a meeting with Egypt's president and will travel to Cairo to press for his release.

"She had planned to fly from L.A. to Toronto to meet Fahmy upon his release but she hopes they can fly together out of Cairo toward freedom," his family said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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People take part in a march to show their support for the Cameroon army fighting against Boko Haram militants in the city of Yaounde, Cameroon, Saturday. JOEL KOUAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boko Haram hits Niger border town

Violence. Explosion kills one, injures at least six after army repulses attack, minister says

Boko Haram staged an overnight assault on a border town in Niger and a shell struck a market in the same town a few hours later, witnesses and the country's defence minister said Sunday, in a sign the extremists' offensive against the West African nation was intensifying.

The attack on the town of Diffa began Saturday night, and fighting between Boko Haram and Niger's army lasted until 5 a.m. toward the town's southern entrance before the

Regional dimension

The fight against Boko Haram has taken on an increasingly regional dimension in recent months, with the extremists staging attacks in both Cameroon and Niger last week alone.

extremists were forced to flee and calm was restored, Diffa resident Adam Boukar said.

It was the second time the town had come under attack by Boko Haram since Friday.

A few hours after the attack was repulsed, a shell fired by Boko Haram struck Diffa's pepper market, which attracts traders and customers from Nigeria and other countries in

the region, Defence Minister Mahamadou Karijo told state media Sunday night. Karijo said one person was killed and at least six people were injured in the explosion. No casualty figures were provided for the earlier attack on the town.

Niger's lawmakers are expected to vote Monday on a deployment of troops to fight Boko Haram, and Karijo called for "a large demonstration to support our army."

The minister's account of the market explosion differed from those of several Diffa residents, who earlier in the day said it was a suicide attack, a common tactic employed by Boko Haram at crowded markets and bus stations in Nigeria.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police arrest teen in mall shooting near Pittsburgh

A teenager who police say opened fire at a Pittsburgh-area mall, shooting his intended target plus a couple, was arrested early Sunday after police used surveillance footage and an Instagram photo to link the suspect to the shooting.

Gunfire erupted inside the men's department on the lower level of Macy's department store at the Monroeville Mall about 7:30 p.m. Saturday, sending panicked shoppers running.

Tarod Thornhill, 17, was arrested at a home in Brackenridge about 3:15 a.m. Sunday. He was being held at the Allegheny County Jail pending arraignment on charges as



Tarod Thornhill
COURTESY ALLEGHENY COUNTY POLICE DEPT.

an adult of aggravated assault, attempted homicide and recklessly endangering other people. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Feb. 18, according

to court documents.

Police Chief Douglas Cole said two men and a woman were shot, including the man who was targeted.

Davon Jones, 20, was in critical condition, Forbes Hospital spokesman Jesse Miller said.

Elsewhere in Pennsylvania

Authorities say a western Pennsylvania teenager charged in the shooting death of another teen took a selfie with the body and sent it to a friend on social media. The 16-year-old boy is charged with homicide and a firearms count in the death of Ryan Mangano, 16, who was found Wednesday in his home in Jeannette, Pa.

The two bystanders, Thomas and Mary Singleton, were listed in critical and fair condition, respectively. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jordan. Attacks launched on 56 ISIL targets: General

Jordan has launched 56 air strikes against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's (ISIL's) weapons depots, training centres and military barracks since militants released a video of them burning a Jordanian pilot to death, Jordan's air force chief said Sunday.

Meanwhile, a squadron of F-16 fighter jets from the United Arab Emirates arrived in Jordan. The UAE has said it is sending the warplane to support the kingdom, and a Jordanian government official has said they will participate in airstrikes on ISIL targets.

Jordanian officials vowed to harshly retaliate for the slaying of the pilot, Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh, who was set ablaze while trapped in a cage.

Since Thursday, the Jordanian air force has attacked and destroyed 56 ISIL targets, the air force chief, Gen. Mansour al-Jabour, told reporters. This includes 19 targets on the first day, 18 on the second and 19 on the third, he said.

"We achieved what we were looking for: Revenge for Muath," the general said. "And this is not the end. This is the beginning."

Quoted

"We achieved what we were looking for: Revenge for Muath ... And this is not the end. This is the beginning."

Gen. Mansour al-Jabour

In recent days, Jordanian officials have delivered tough warnings to ISIL, saying the retaliation campaign would not stop until the group has been destroyed.

The United States and several Arab allies, including Jordan, have been striking ISIL in Syria since Sept. 23, while warplanes from the U.S. and other countries have been waging an air campaign against the extremists in Iraq for even longer.

The campaign aims to push back the jihadi organization after it took large parts of Iraq and Syria and declared a "caliphate."

Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have been participating in the Syria airstrikes, with logistical support from Qatar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Middle East

Ted Cruz not ruling out U.S. ground forces against ISIL

Sen. Ted Cruz, a potential presidential candidate in 2016, isn't ruling out sending United States' ground troops to fight ISIL militants.

The Texas Republican tells ABC's "This Week" that "if need be, we should go that step. But it should be driven by the mission."

Cruz says Iraqi Kurds have a good fighting force, but need to receive arms more effectively from the U.S. Cruz wants to use Kurdish fighters — known as the peshmerga — as the ground forces in combination with U.S.-led airstrikes. He says those fighters are effective and ready. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt

At least 25 killed in soccer riot

A riot broke out Sunday night outside of a major soccer game in Egypt, with a stampede and fighting between police and fans killing at least 25 people, authorities said.

The riot began ahead of a match between Egyptian Premier League clubs Zamalek and ENPPI at Air Defence Stadium, east of Cairo. Such attacks in the past have sparked days of violent protests pitting the country's fans against police officers in a nation already on edge. Egypt's public prosecutor issued a statement ordering an investigation. What caused the violence wasn't immediately clear.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Eastern Ukrainian town rocked by weeks of gunfire

Ukrainian military vehicles drive towards Debaltsevo on Sunday near the outskirts of Artemivsk in eastern Ukraine. The government-held town of Debaltsevo, a key railway junction, has been the epicenter of recent battles between Russian-backed separatists and Ukrainian government troops. For two weeks, the town has been pounded by intense shelling that knocked out power, heat and running water in the dead of winter.

EVGENIY MALOLETKA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two Sydney café hostages recall plots to stab gunman

Australia. Man Haron Monis took 18 people hostage at Lindt café in the country's capital

Quoted

"He was right below me sitting on the lounge and (I thought) do I stab him? What if I miss? What are the consequences of that, you know, who's he going to shoot?" Joel Herat, 21, talks about his thoughts during the siege

Two staff members of a Sydney café revealed in interviews broadcast Sunday how they plotted to stab a gunman who held them hostage during a 16-hour siege in December, while two others described how they escaped the ordeal.

Joel Herat, 21, and Jarrod Morton-Hoffman, 19, said in paid interviews broadcast by Nine Network television that they armed themselves with box cutters after gunman Man Haron Monis took them and 16 other people hostage in the Lindt café in downtown Sydney. "I've got this knife in my

pocket and I know Joel has a knife in his pocket and we are so close, we can do this," Morton-Hoffman said.

"But he had his gun. He had it on his knee and I could see that it was pointed directly at Julie Taylor," a pregnant hostage, Morton-Hoffman said.

Meanwhile, staffers Bae Jie-un, 20, who was on her first day back after a vacation, and Elly Chen, 22, who had been employed for less than a week, told Seven Network television in paid interviews how Bae quietly unbolted an internal door to en-

able both to escape.

The café's 34-year-old manager, Tori Johnson, was killed after Monis forced him to kneel on the floor and then fired a cartridge to the back of his head with a sawed-off shotgun after a second group of hostages escaped, a coroner's court was told last month.

Police stormed the café, fatally shooting Monis and accidentally killing Katrina Dawson, a 38-year-old lawyer, with bullet fragments that ricocheted.

Monis, a 50-year-old Iranian-born, self-styled cleric with a


long criminal history, took the customers and workers captive and forced them to outline his demands in a series of online videos — including that he be permitted to speak to Australia's prime minister and be delivered a flag of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the coroner was told.

The coroner's inquest is looking into how police managed the crisis, including whether snipers should have taken a shot at Monis through the café's windows.

Separately, Prime Minister Tony Abbott last week received a report on a government review of the siege and the events leading to it. The review, expected to be released in a month, examined why Monis was free on bail despite facing a string of violent charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A mechanic works on the engine of a TransAsia Airways ATR aircraft at the Songshan airport in Taipei, Taiwan, on Saturday, three days after one of the carrier's ATRs crashed. WALLY SANTANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taiwan. TransAsia meets with crash victims' families

TransAsia Airways representatives met Sunday with relatives of the victims of last week's plane crash in Taiwan to discuss compensation, after it began distributing money to families of the deceased for funeral costs.

At least 40 people died after the propeller-jet crashed into the muddy Keelung River minutes after takeoff Wednesday from Taipei's airport. Fifteen of the 58 people aboard the plane were rescued. Divers are trying to find the bodies of three people still missing, by using metal detectors to locate their

watches or seatbelts.

Preliminary investigations indicate the pilots of the TransAsia Airways ATR 72 shut off a running engine after its other engine went idle, a move that aviation experts said was an error.

A TransAsia spokeswoman, Fang Chia-wen, said a second meeting would be held on Wednesday to discuss compensation matters further. She said the airline had already begun distributing 1.2 million Taiwan dollars (about \$47,500) per victim to families for funeral expenses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dashcams

Device used to catch scammers

Footage of the TransAsia plane clipping a bridge in Taiwan and crashing into a river highlighted the popularity of "dashcams" that are capturing everything from crime to natural disasters through the windshield.

The cameras have become particularly popular with Russians and South Koreans as a deterrent for scammers who throw themselves onto the windshields of slow-moving cars in a bid to claim insurance money.

Papago, a Taiwanese manufacturer which supplies around 20 per cent



A dashcam mounted on a car's windshield. ISTOCK

of the global market, said it sells around 1.0 million dash cams a year with China, Japan, the United States, Russia and Australia its main destinations.

The habit has also started to catch on in Europe. Sales were estimated to have reached 370,000 in France by early 2014 according to magazine UFC-Que Choisir.

AFP

'Sharing economy' reshaping markets

Internet. Car-sharing, finance, staffing, accommodation, music and video streaming sectors worth \$335B by 2025, research firm PwC estimates

Want to make a bit of extra cash driving strangers around in your car, taking care of someone's dog, renting your apartment or cooking a meal? Welcome to the sharing economy.

With Internet-based apps and services such as Uber and Airbnb, you make money, and the consumer saves. So it's a win-win? That's the multibillion-dollar question.

The new way of operating has been reshaping entire economic sectors, with the promise of improved efficiency and more flexibility.

The spectacular rise of ride-sharing, home-sharing and other services has turned economic models upside down, and fuelled complaints that these services skirt rules on safety, consumer protection and labour rights.

Some economists say this "peer-to-peer" model offers numerous advantages by tapping underutilized resources.

The sharing economy "can improve consumer welfare by offering new innovations, more choices, more service differentiation, better prices and higher quality services," says a study by George Mason University economists.

Christopher Koopman, an author of the George Mason report, said the sharing economy "allows people to take idle capital and turn (it) into revenue sources."

"People are taking spare bedrooms, cars, tools they are not using and becoming their own entrepreneurs."

There is no official definition of the sharing econ-



Uber is the best-known platform in the sharing economy. QUIQUE GARCIA/AFP

Quoted

"The sharing economy will be part of the overall economy going forward."

Technology strategist Mary Jesse.

omy. Some include delivery services such as Instacart and Postmates; neighbour-sharing platforms like Peerby; pet-sitting service DogVacay; and the restroom service Airpnp.

The research firm PwC estimates that by 2025, five sharing economy segments (finance, online staffing, accommodation, car-sharing and music or video streaming) could be worth \$335 billion US, up from \$15 billion today.

"The sharing economy will be part of the overall economy going forward," said technology strategist Mary Jesse. "Some industries — like taxi services in transportation and B&B rentals in travel — will be completely transformed, while others, such as financial services, will be only peripherally impacted."

This is part of the 'technology revolution,' as well as a new norm."

Uber is the best-known platform in the sharing economy, having reached a valuation of \$40 billion US while expanding to more than 200 cities in 54 countries.

But Uber and similar services like Lyft and Sidecar have fueled heated protests from taxi drivers, who complain that the new entrants don't have to meet the same requirements for licensing, safety and insurance, making the competition unfair.

Airbnb, the leading online platform for peer-to-peer lodging, has sparked similar complaints from the hotel sector. Responding to complaints, the San Francisco startup recently expanded efforts to collect lodging taxes in some locations.

Other services in the sharing economy include "Feastly," which allows individuals to cook meals for customers; Vinted, a marketplace for unwanted clothing; and Lending Club, one of several platforms for peer-to-peer loans.

AFP

Google

Mapping service adds local guides

An update to Google's free online map service lets users become local guides who post reviews of businesses and venues in a challenge to Yelp.

Local Guides was described by Google as a global community of the top reviewers who reap benefits based on how much they post about businesses they visit.

Perks promised range from access to a monthly newsletter to being featured on the Internet titan's Facebook, Twitter, and Google+ pages. AFP

Markets

Investors focus on corporate Canada

Investors will be focused on earnings from corporate Canada this week as they assess how badly depressed commodity prices have impacted the bottom lines of resource companies. It has been a challenging time for Canadian resource companies as prices for metals and oil have been hammered in recent months.

Copper prices tumbled 13 per cent in January alone while oil prices have collapsed, falling 40 per cent since the end of November.

Oil prices have essentially stopped going straight down and have entered a period of volatility as traders try to find a bottom. THE CANADIAN PRESS

I, Jaya Prasad Kiran Kumar declare that my daughter previously known as KIRAN KAVITHA CHRISTINE shall be named KAVITHA CHRISTINE KIRAN (first, middle and last names) henceforth from this date, Present address: Jaya Prasad Kiran Kumar, 103 suite, 15504 84 ave, NW, Edmonton, AB, T5R 3L5.

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VOICES

'ENCOURAGED' TO BE PATIENT

The re-imagined 104 Avenue corridor also requires funding and co-operation: "You don't build cities in a year," senior planner says



FOOTNOTES
Omar Moullem

In August 2013, city council approved a contentious rezoning proposal for the downtown Molson Brewery site, since renamed the Edmonton Brewery District. It would allow the landowners to build a suburban-style power centre, despite opposition from residents. It was later revealed that city administration believed its design was inappropriate for a dense urban-core and future LRT line.

Residents no doubt left the marathon debate disappointed if not angry, but there was a conciliatory prize: The city would conduct a "land use study" — a policy for future 104 Avenue development that would give them a say.

Nearly two years later, the 84-page docu-

ment debuted at an open-house audience of 70 last Tuesday.

It contains images of a reimagined corridor that's more San Francisco than Edmonton, with streetcar-style LRT, terrace restaurants, storefronts below apartments and, generally speaking, people looking much happier than those today bombarded with six lanes of traffic and big-box stores.

There's a survey on the 104 Avenue corridor plan online until Friday.

Senior planner Travis Pawlyk led the progressive design plan. Though he won't go as far as calling it a reaction to residents' and planners' attempts to improve the Brewery District design, he admits the current shape of the avenue is "not a comfortable pedestrian environment."

The main reason is the seas of parking between the sidewalks and businesses. The city

hopes future development will see buildings and front doors right at the edge of the sidewalks, like on Whyte Avenue. But, like many of the plan's most attractive elements — mixed-use structures, reusing heritage buildings, covered parking — it's merely "encouraged."

That word appears 47 times in the document (by my count), revealing the limitations of zoning bylaws and ability to retroactively fix mistakes. The fact is, the land is privately owned. In fact, two companies, First Capital Realty and Sun Life, hold the vast majority of land between 124 and 111 Street, including the Brewery District under construction.

The city can require new construction to meet some criteria, specifically around the future West LRT line stations. But without buy-in from landowners, the big-picture plan is more request than requirement.

More importantly, the vision requires funding — which neither it nor the proposed LRT have, hence Pawlyk and staff's frequent reminders that this is "not going to happen overnight."

It's tempting to think it can, what with the museum and arena under construction on the west side of the road.

"That's a once-in-a-generational-construction boom," reminds Pawlyk.

His projected timeline for the new 104 Avenue is 25 years.

There a palpable feeling of futility at the open house: Here, in a transitory neighbourhood, where few stick around for 10 years let alone 25, residents were invited to consult on a project with no funding, that many won't have much use for once it's complete.

"That's the nature of long-term planning," says Pawlyk. "You don't build cities in a year."

Your Edmonton



'Perfect peaceful place'

Photo submitted by Metro reader Kal Saimbhi

Metro reader Kal Saimbhi took this photo at the Glenora stairs. He says he likes "the way the colourful lights of the bridge contrast against the dark night sky. It's the perfect peaceful place to take a breath and enjoy the view."

CONTRIBUTED

SEE YOUR SHOT HERE:
Send us high-quality snaps of your city to
readers@metronews.ca

Upcoming

Being cold has never been so cool

If you're an Edmonton resident looking to beat the winter blues, then the Silver Skate Festival may help relieve your winter woes.

The event, which runs from Feb. 13 to Feb. 22, promises residents a wide berth of winter-themed events, with 2015 marking 25 years of snow-covered fun. According to the event's website, the festival is rooted in the winter traditions of the Netherlands and combines such sports as the Edmonton Winter Triathlon with live music, snow sculptures, broom ball and even a series of kortebaar races, which are described by the event as a "traditional speed-skating sprint race held on outdoor ice."

The event is Edmonton's oldest winter festival and will take place at William Hawrelak Park. **METRO**

Student comedians bringing the funny

If comic relief is what you're after, then Edmonton's Wildfire Improv Festival may have what you need.

Organized by the Rapid Fire Theatre Company, the festival is taking place from Feb. 10 to Feb. 28 and will feature improvised performances from high school students across Alberta. With the Rapid Fire Theatre being Edmonton's "premiere destination for improvised comedy," the event will see students go head-to-head at Zeidler Hall in the Citadel Theatre, giving students a chance to flex their creative muscles against some of the best improvisers in the province. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. **METRO**

The Grammys play it safe

Grammy Awards.

Go to bed early last night? We highlight the night's top moments so you can fake like you tuned in

Last night's 57th Annual Grammy Awards was hyped up to be one of the most dramatic and controversial ever, but despite a few stand-out moments, the night was pretty lacklustre.

Hosting duties

LL Cool J played host for the fourth time and opened the show with an enjoyable tease of Going Back To Cali. He last hosted the show in 2012, a few days after Whitney Houston's death. Now, with Houston's daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown in critical condition, Cool J decided not to comment on the tragedy, instead focusing on the night's performers and nominees.

Performances

With a whopping 23 performances, there were plenty of chances for something jaw-dropping to take place, but theatrics were kept at a minimum. Usually energetic performer Ariana Grande stuck to a ballad of Just A Little Bit Of Your Heart. In general, the performances skewed older with AC/DC opening the show, Lady Gaga taking the stage with Tony Bennett and of course Madonna, who actually gave a phenomenal performance, proving she still has it at 56 years old.

Some other performances worth YouTubeing include Miranda Lambert, Kanye West and Rihanna, Hozier and Annie Lennox, and Pharrell. This



Smokey Robinson, right, presents Beyoncé with the award for best R&B performance for Drunk in Love. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

was West's first-ever time performing at the award show, but he more than made up for it by taking the stage twice.

Taking a stand against domestic violence

Katy Perry, in all white, sang the ballad By the Grace of God after a woman who had been abused talked about getting help and moving on with her life. A video of President Barack Obama appeared before she spoke, and he encouraged artists to help out.

"It's on us, all of us, to create a culture where violence

isn't tolerated," he said.

Winners

This year's most controversial award, best rap album, was announced without fanfare before the show. Eminem won, beating out Iggy Azalea, Childish Gambino, Common, Schoolboy Q and Wiz Khalifa. Considering all the controversy surrounding Azalea's nomination, everyone was definitely waiting for this one.

This really wasn't Azalea's night. She also lost best new artist to Sam Smith, who also

won for best pop vocal album, two predictable, yet deserved wins. Best pop solo performance went to Pharrell for Happy while best R&B performance went to Beyoncé.

In one of the evening's few surprises, Beck won album of the year for Morning Phase.

Things get surreal

Sam Smith who also took record of the year and song of the year, was nominated for six Grammys, something he called "surreal."

But not as surreal as

More details online

For a full list of winners and more Grammy Awards coverage, go to metronews.ca

when Stevie Wonder asked him to drop by his dressing room. Wonder ended up performing one of Smith's songs.

"That's just crazy," he said on the red carpet.

METRO U.S. WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How will Sam Smith celebrate after winning his Grammys?

He said he wanted to go to In-N-Out, that overwhelmingly popular SoCal burger chain. And don't worry about all those calories he'll rack up with a double-double or two. Smith says he's been dieting just for this night.

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Trend. More and more people are pulling the plug on time-thieving tech

With virtually everyone spending increasingly more time plugged in to the Internet, some are considering a digital detox, an extended time-out from the online world.

Prolific political writer Andrew Sullivan recently announced plans for a break from blogging after 15 years of pounding the keyboard. In a note to readers on his website, The Dish, Sullivan wrote of being "saturated in digital life" and wanting to "return to the actual world again."

Last May, actor and comedian Patton Oswalt also posted a lengthy note on Facebook announcing a summer hiatus from social media. "If I don't, I feel like my psyche is going to suffer permanent slippage," he wrote.

Michael Harris documented a month spent without his phone or Internet access in his book *The End of Absence: Reclaiming What We've Lost in a World of Constant Connection* (HarperCollins). The Vancouver native said he came away from his digital detox feeling the need to



Patton Oswalt took a summer-long hiatus from social media last year.
GETTY IMAGES

be less passive with his tech use. "These technologies are very ruthlessly designed to capitalize on really basic animal instincts to grab your attention," he said. "In the same way that you can't just walk into the grocery store and buy whatever food that (your) desire for sugar and fat is telling you to buy, we have to engineer our media diet for ourselves."

While some may feel the need for an extended "digital fast," Harris said another approach is to make manageable adjustments in your daily life.

"Something like 50 per cent of us sleep with our smart-

phones on bedside tables. And when we wake up, the first thing that we think is: 'What did I miss?' instead of thinking: 'What will I do with my day?'" Harris said.

"Take that 30 or 40 minutes to say: 'I'm not going to let my Twitter feed colonize my brain right away. I'm going to have a shower, I'm going to make a cup of coffee.'"

Vancouver-based business and leadership coach Lauren Bacon said she's not of the belief that individuals need to unplug completely to experience mindfulness. "I do think cultivating consciousness and awareness of what our own priorities are, of what we really want out of a day, is kind of step one," said Bacon. "We need to start there if we're going to make any headway ... We need to be really clear on what matters to us to get done in a day, what emails can afford to be left unread or unresponded to, and what interactions really do feed us and make us feel connected, versus what interactions are just kind of demanding and draining." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

A 'surreal' time-travelling Zelda game, a tool to make your selfies more artsy and a book that tells of life at Guantanamo



MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

Video game

Name. The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask

For. Nintendo 3DS

Rated. Everyone 10+



By far the most surreal of the Zelda games, *Majora's Mask* is a wonderland of nonsensical carnival characters that will play with your perceptions through a three-day time loop. Link is at his youngest, using fantasy masks to change into imaginative forms with different abilities and a musical ocarina to repeat events. But the lack of maps at the beginning and the need to keep track of time travel can make it a disorienting handheld game to play on-the-go.

App



Reflections X Ray-Ban

iPhone/iPad
Free

By using both your front and back smartphone cameras, *Reflections* will blend pictures taken between them both for an artistic selfie you can then further stylize using filters and effects.

Ebooks

Guantanamo Diary

By. Mohamedou Ould Slahi

Kindle/iBooks/Kobo



A former member of Al Qaeda who maintained dangerous friendships, it's easy to see why Mohamedou was picked up by U.S. intelligence 12 years ago, but navigate through the scanned pages and heavily redacted text of his prison diary and it's less clear why he's still at Guantanamo Bay today. This is a tale told with surprising sensitivity and intelligence.

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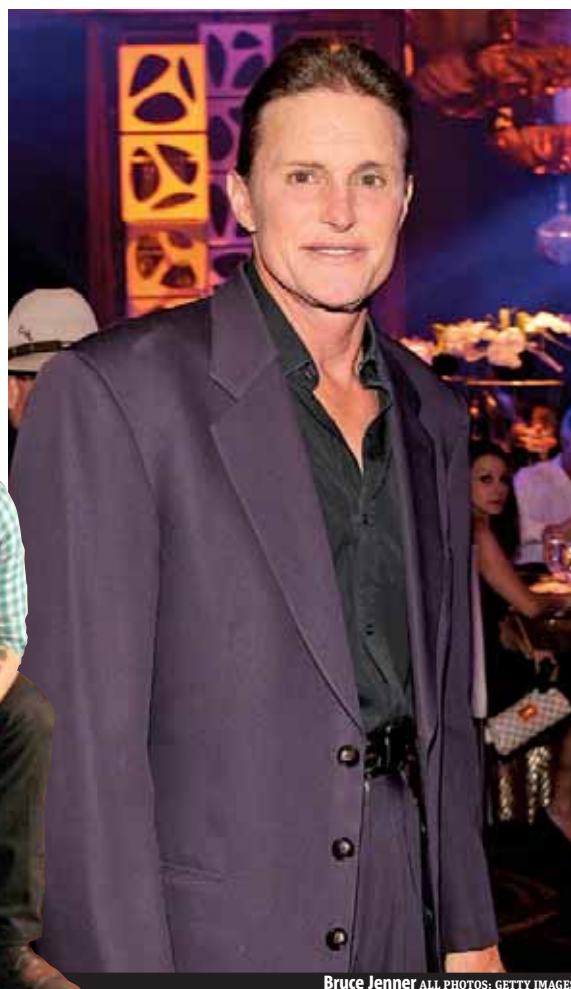
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Gossip

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METRO'S TAKE ON
THE WORLD OF
CELEBRITIES



Bruce Jenner ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Jenner may have been texting at time of fatal accident

Texting and driving may have played a role in the Bruce Jenner multi-car accident in Malibu over the weekend that left one woman dead.

On Saturday, while driving on the Pacific Coast Highway, Jenner's Cadillac Escalade rear-ended a Lexus

that was coming to a stop at a light.

The collision sent the other car into oncoming traffic, where it was struck by a Hummer, killing the driver of the Lexus.

Now law enforcement sources tell TMZ that they are procuring warrants

for Jenner's phone and its records, as photos of Jenner immediately before the crash suggest he had something in his hands.

If he was found to be illegally texting while driving, he could be charged with vehicular manslaughter.

Teen Mom star proactively preventing pregnancy with new condom line

While I usually stop reading anything once the words Teen Mom pop up, this is admittedly kind of genius. One of the show's precocious procreators, Gary Shirley, has launched a line of condoms with his name and face on the wrapper. And honestly, I can't think of a better deterrent to unprotected sex and teenage pregnancy than a bright, smiling reminder of the kind of corpulent reality star you could become if you don't play it safe.

Shirley took to Twitter to unveil his new line



Gary Shirley's new line of condoms
SUPPLIED: @ITSGARYTIME

of prophylactics with a simple, "Revealing my condoms!" And boy does he seem excited.



Katie Couric

Katie Couric eyes Brian Williams' job

While Brian Williams takes a few days off to refresh his memory about the Iraq War, the vultures are apparently circling. Among them? Former NBC mainstay Katie Couric, who left the network for CBS in 2006 to become the first female nightly news anchor — for a little while, at least. "Katie

still has deep, deep contacts at NBC. She would love to return as the Nightly News anchor," a source tells the Daily News. "No one smells blood like Katie. She is like a shark. Brian is in deep trouble and this could be her chance. You don't get to be as successful as Katie without being ruthless."

Life isn't Rosie as O'Donnell leaves The View again

Talk about a domino effect. Rosie O'Donnell's second tenure at The View is coming to a premature end so that she can head home to deal with the end of her marriage to her wife of three years, Michelle Rounds. "I can confirm that Rosie and her wife, Michelle, split in November," O'Donnell's rep says in a statement. "Rosie has teens and an infant at home that need her attention. This has been a very stressful situation. She is putting her personal health and family first. ABC has been wonderfully understanding and supportive of her personal decision to leave The View. Next week will be her last."

O'Donnell first left the daytime talk show in a huff back in 2007, only to return last fall. Her return, though, kicked off an immediate and near-constant stream of rumours of discord among the show's co-hosts — O'Donnell, Whoopi Goldberg, Rosie Perez and Nicole Wallace — and talk of O'Donnell angling for an exit.



Rosie
O'Donnell

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Arranging your piles of money

Planning. Instead of thinking about cash as one big pot, divide it into separate accounts with distinct purposes



GAIL VAZ-OXLADE
Gail blogs daily at
gailvazoxlade.com

I've always thought of my money in piles, separate and distinct, each with a purpose or a place: cash flow, emergency, planned spending and long-term saving.

Cash flow

Cash flow is your keeping-it-together-money. It's the money that comes in and goes out every month to pay bills, buy food, and get you from hither to yon. Your budget is the framework for your cash flow. When you get paid, the money flows in. When you pay for something, the money flows out.

If you don't have a budget, you can't possibly be managing your cash flow. Sure, you may feel like you're doing all right, but mental math is a sinkhole and it's only a matter of time before you hurt yourself. If you want to be a master of cash flow, you'll not only make a plan for how you'll use your money (a budget), you'll also use a spending journal to track your day-to-day money activities.

Emergency pile

Emergency is the money you set aside, just in case. You're supposed to build your emergency pile up to six months' worth of essential expenses,

A key concept

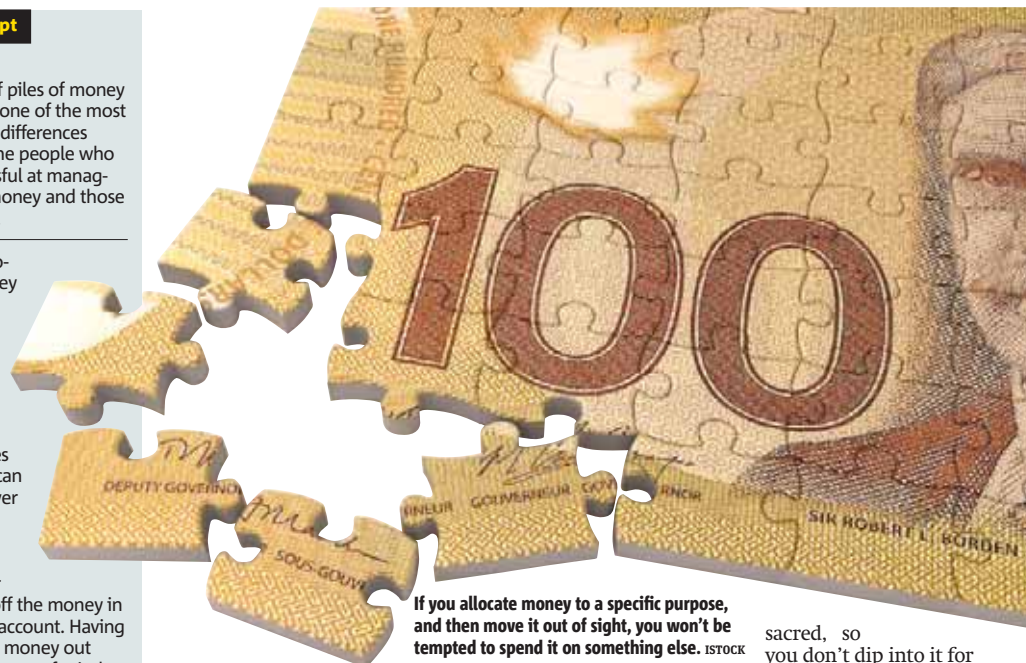
- The idea of piles of money is perhaps one of the most significant differences between the people who are successful at managing their money and those that aren't.
- Having allocated money to a pile, a body isn't tempted to spend it on anything else. And having piles of money can be a lifesaver if you've got a mate who can't keep his or her hand off the money in the house account. Having moved the money out of sight, it's out of mind until you've got enough to make your purchase.

which are the things that will keep body and soul together. And this money should be kept in a high-interest savings account so it's easy to get at.

I know it's pretty popular to think that putting that much money in a savings account is stupid because you can't earn enough to beat inflation, but that's not the point of the emergency fund. The point is to have cash available so that when some storm blows in, you have options to deal with it. No money, no options. You'll just have to suck it up.

Planned spending pile

Planned spending is what



If you allocate money to a specific purpose, and then move it out of sight, you won't be tempted to spend it on something else. ISTOCK

most people never do. At the start of every year I look at what I spent on gifts the previous year, divide it by 12 and move that amount into my gift account monthly. When the time comes to go shopping, I'm ready.

Tons of stuff falls into the planned spending category. From home maintenance to clothes for the kids, from vacations to that new couch you've been eyeing, if you have to accumulate money so you can make a purchase, it's planned spending.

If you don't accumulate the money and plan to count on your credit cards or line of credit to get you what you want, you shouldn't wonder at your growing debt and your sense that your money is wagging you!

As to where to keep this pile of money and how to track it, I use a high interest savings account for each category (savings accounts are free) and I name it so I'm not confused about what the money is for.

Look for an account paying the best interest rate going so your money isn't sitting completely idle. If you don't want the hassle of multiple accounts, you can pile it all into one account and keep track of the various categories on a spreadsheet.

Long-term saving pile

Long-term saving is the money you don't touch for a long, long, long, long, long time. It's your retirement money. It may be your kids' school money. This money is

sacred, so you don't dip into it for any reason. When you slide this money away, it's gone, vamoosed, vanished until the end date when you need it.

As long as you see savings as something you can tap should the need arise, the previous three piles don't seem as important. Shift your focus to keeping this money socked away no matter what, and you'll soon see how important it is to manage your cash flow, have an emergency fund and plan your spending.

If you can wrap your head around the idea of piles of money instead of one big pot, then you're more likely to keep the amounts you allocate for specific purposes intact.

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Mental health. Meditation may keep the brain young

Preserving the brain's most important tissue — the neuron-rich grey matter — could be accomplished through meditation, according to a new study at the University of California at Los Angeles.

As early as the mid-to-late 20s, the brain starts to show the effects of aging, as its volume and weight start to dwindle.

Previous research has suggested that those who practise meditation have less age-related degradation in their white matter, so the UCLA team, whose study was published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology*, sought to build on these

findings.

"We expected rather small and distinct effects located in some of the regions that had previously been associated with meditating," says co-author Dr. Florian Kurth. "Instead, what we actually observed was a widespread effect of meditation that encompassed regions throughout the brain."

In the study, the team compared the brains of 50 participants who had years of experience in meditation with those of 50 more with none in order to understand the relationship between age and grey matter.

AFP



Meditating could help preserve grey matter, a study has found. ISTOCK

Brain science

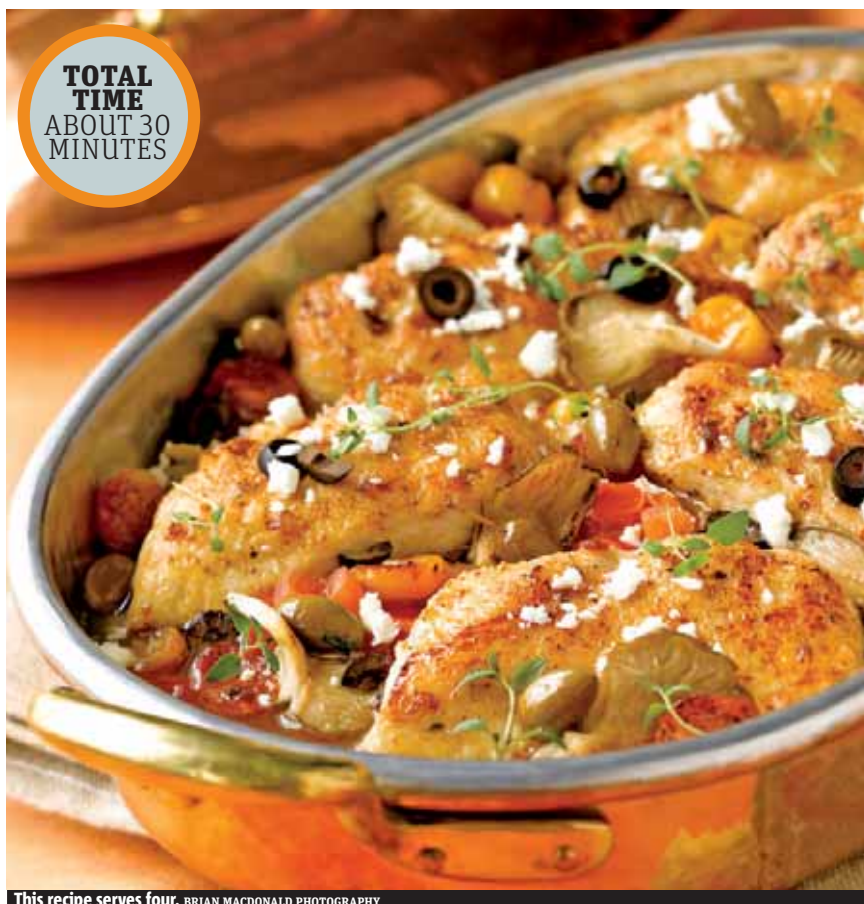
App uses eye tracking to boost concentration

An Israeli startup called Umooove has released an app called uHealth that aims to increase your concentration using a method called eye tracking. The app is designed in the form of two games, one to improve attention, another to hone focus. Scientists increasingly study eye tracking as it relates to brain activity and how we process information, yet smartphone therapy using the method is relatively new. AFP

Diet

Going organic reduces pesticide exposure: Study

A recent study at Boise State University in Idaho says that when it comes to pesticide exposure, organic foods live up to the health hype that's been surrounding them for decades. The research team worked with dietary data from 4,500 people from six cities in the U.S., and found subjects who ate organic produce had significantly less exposure to components called organophosphates than those who didn't. AFP



This recipe serves four. BRIAN MACDONALD PHOTOGRAPHY

The secret to making juicy chicken breasts

Dinner. Simmer Mediterranean Chicken with Grape Tomatoes and Mushrooms in stock



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Nutritional information

Per serving

- **Calories.** 368
- **Carbohydrates.** 14 g
- **Fibre.** 4 g
- **Protein.** 47 g
- **Total fat.** 12 g
- **Saturated fat.** 2.4 g
- **Cholesterol.** 105 mg
- **Sodium.** 415 mg

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge
to your table in
30 minutes or less

Chicken that is simmered in a tasty stock is incredibly tender when cooked and served in minutes. The key is to maintain a medium-low heat to prevent the chicken from overcooking and getting dry.

Coating the chicken with flour keeps the juices in.

Directions

1. Dust chicken with flour. In a hot, large nonstick skillet sprayed with vegetable spray, add the oil and sauté the chicken for 3 minutes or just until lightly browned on all sides. Remove the chicken and set aside.

2. In the same skillet, coated with more vegetable spray, add the oil and sauté the mushrooms on medium heat for 8 minutes or just until tender. Add the stock, olives, plum tomatoes, teardrop tomatoes, garlic, capers and chicken. Cov-

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lb boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 4 single breasts)
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 tsp vegetable oil (divided)
- 12 oz chopped oyster mushrooms
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 1/3 cup pitted diced black olives
- 1 cup diced plum tomatoes
- 3/4 cup halved teardrop or grape tomatoes
- 1 1/2 tsp crushed garlic
- 1 tbsp capers
- Garnish**
- 3 tbsp chopped parsley
- 1 tbsp toasted pine nuts or almonds
- 3 tbsp feta cheese, crumbled

er and simmer on a lower heat for 10 minutes or just until the chicken is cooked.

3. Garnish with chopped parsley, toasted pine nuts or almonds and crumbled feta cheese. **ROSE REISMAN'S SECRETS FOR PERMANENT WEIGHT LOSS (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**


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Learning. Musical training in youth keeps brain functioning longer



From instrument to intellect, a little music can go a long way. ISTOCK

Learning how to play an instrument prior to age 14 and sticking with it for at least 10 years could preserve cognitive skills such as understanding human speech in old age, according to a new Canadian study from the Rotman Research Institute (RRI).

Seniors who fit this description of musical experience were 20 per cent faster when identifying speech sounds than their non-musical counterparts, according to the study, which was published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

"Musical activities are an engaging form of cognitive brain training and we are now

seeing robust evidence of brain plasticity from musical training not just in younger brains, but in older brains, too," says lead author Gavin Bidelman, at the time a post-doctoral fellow at the RRI. Bidelman is currently an assistant professor at the University of Memphis.

Dr. Bidelman and his team used electroencephalography (EEG) imaging to assess how well their participants — a group of 20 healthy adults aged 55 to 75 — could classify or identify speech.

Among the participants, half qualified as being musicians according to the study's standards and the other half did not. In a controlled laboratory setting, they put on headphones and were asked to listen to and identify random speech sounds that ranged from simple, single vowel sounds of "ooo" and "ahhh" to ambiguous, mixed sounds that were more difficult to recognize.

Because EEG technology offers ultra-precise measurements of the timing of the brain's electrical activity in response to external stimuli, the researchers say they have strong evidence of the cognitive preservation musical training affords.

AFF

Take note

The RRI study is the most recent of many that make the case for the brain benefits of musical training, particularly if it starts during youth.

- While cognitive advantages are most frequently cited, researchers in Vermont recently published a study suggesting that musical training could be more effective than medication for children with psychological disorders.

Acing the video interview



If you are using a service like Skype, make sure your username and profile picture are professional and feature your real name. Consider using a professional headshot for the image. ISTOCK

Career. Onscreen interviews pose a variety of unique challenges for candidates

CELINE
TARRANT
TalentEgg.ca

In today's global work environment, remote teams and global work assignments are becoming increasingly common. Video conferencing is now a part of daily business interactions, including job searching and recruiting. Here

Do a test run

The best thing you can do to prepare for your interview is to do a test run with a friend, using the same computer you will be using for the interview, in the same location and outfit you'll wear the day of the chat.

- Doing a test run is a great way to prevent any technical issues on the day of, and calm your nerves.

- Make sure your friend can hear you clearly, that there is no lag in the video, that the lighting is fine and your outfit looks professional and translates well on camera. Confirm that the Wi-Fi signal is strong enough so you won't need to worry about dropped calls. Have your friend watch for any ticks or habits you might have that look odd onscreen.

are a few tips for nailing the onscreen interview:

Location, location, location

A professional setting with no visual distractions is essential for a successful video interview. Even an office or a clean bedroom can still be a distraction to the interviewer: You want all eyes on you during your interview, and nothing in the background grabbing the attention.

For the perfect setting, try to book a meeting room in your library or school building. If you must interview from home, it may be worth setting up a temporary "set" somewhere in the house with a blank wall in the background and no clutter or household items around. Choose a place that is well lit, preferably with natural light. It should also be completely quiet.

Let family and roommates know that you have an interview and that absolute silence is required. Consider putting a sign on the door to remind people, just in case someone tries to come knocking.

Professional appearance

Professional attire is just as important on camera as it is in person. This means a complete outfit — no sweat pants on the bottom.

Be mindful of your fashion choices. Small patterns, shimmer or sheer fabrics, and sparkly accessories appear differently on camera than in person. Opt for a more conservative colour palette and make sure your top is a different colour than your background to avoid the appearance of a floating head.

Dress the same way you would for an in-person inter-

view at the company. If you were visiting their offices, would you wear a full suit? If so, then suit up for your on-camera appearance as well. Dressing up properly will help you "get into the zone" as well.

Mind the time difference

In many cases, if you are interviewing from a different location than the interviewer, there might be a time difference. Confirm with your interviewer if they are in a different time zone, and don't expect them to know your time zone. Keep this in mind when committing to an interview to make sure you don't end up interviewing in the middle of the night.

Cheat!

One of the greatest advantages of doing a video interview instead of in-person is that you can cheat a little bit! You definitely don't want to be reading notes verbatim, but you can definitely have a little cheat sheet with important information to jog your memory up on the screen during your interview, without the interviewer noticing.

Keep notes to a minimum though, limiting it to information that you often forget, or questions that you have prepared for the end of the interview.

Consider keeping your résumé on hand as well so you can refer to it if necessary.



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Curling

Jacobs, Gushue join Brier field

Olympic gold medallists Brad Jacobs and Brad Gushue joined the field of the 2015 Canadian men's curling championship by winning their respective provinces Sunday.

The roster of teams for the Brier in Calgary from Feb. 28 to March 8 is nearly complete after eight provinces and the territories declared their champion Sunday.

Kevin Koe (Alberta), Jim Cotter (B.C.), Steven Laycock (Saskatchewan), Reid Carruthers (Manitoba), Glen MacLeod (Nova Scotia), Jamie Koe (Northwest Territories) and Mark Kean (Ontario) also joined the Brier field.

Quebec's Jean-Michel Menard, New Brunswick's Jeremy Mallais and Yukon's Bob Smallwood had qualified in earlier playdowns.

Prince Edward Island's men's final is scheduled for Tuesday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NHL

Blackhawks' Hossa puts hurt on Blues

Marian Hossa's power-play goal broke a third-period tie and he clinched it with an empty-netter for the Chicago Blackhawks in a 4-2 victory over the St. Louis Blues on Sunday.

Bryan Bickell had a goal and assisted on the go-ahead tally for Chicago, which also got a goal from Marcus Kruger.

Vladimir Tarasenko and David Backes had a goal apiece for St. Louis, which never led and has lost two straight since a franchise-record 13-game point streak.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oilers offence runs dry to start road trip

NHL. Loss in Toronto comes with snipers Hall and Pouliot out due to injury

Getting blown out by the Toronto Maple Leafs was not how the Edmonton Oilers wanted to start a six-game, 10-day road trip. The performance caught coach Todd Nelson off-guard after what he thought amounted to two days of strong preparation.

Perhaps the lack of offence against the Leafs, and a few days earlier in a shutout loss at home against the Pittsburgh Penguins, could have been anticipated. The Oilers have been without left-wingers Taylor Hall and Benoit Pouliot, who have combined for almost a quarter of their goals this season.

"That's an excuse, right? We're not going to use it, but it is reality: We do miss those guys," alternate captain Matt Hendricks said Saturday night after the 5-1 loss. "They play big minutes for us and are big offensive guys for us. But we've got to find ways to put pucks in the net."

Toronto kid Luke Gadzic finally did with 2.3 seconds left, but that functioned only to ruin James Reimer's shut-out bid. It was the only goal in two games without Hall and Pouliot, who each have 11 this season.

Pouliot, out with an undisclosed injury, skated in a track suit by himself at Air Canada Centre Saturday morning and felt "not bad," ac-



Maple Leafs defenceman Morgan Rielly scores a highlight-reel goal against the Oilers' Viktor Fasth on Saturday night in Toronto. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ording to Nelson. Hall, who has missed five of the past six games with a left ankle injury, isn't ready to skate yet, the coach said.

It's unclear if Pouliot will be available for Monday night's game at the New Jersey Devils, but at least he remains on the road trip. Hall returned to Edmonton on Sunday to undergo more tests, the team said.

Without Hall and Pouliot, the Oilers still should have the offensive talent to put up some goals.

"That was one of the more

frustrating nights," Jordan Eberle said. "In the second period I had a breakaway to make it 2-1, hit the post, they go down and score. I had a chance in the third period, got hooked a bit and they go down and score again. It wasn't going in for us and going in for them."

More of an issue for the Oilers was their defensive play, according to captain Andrew Ference, who wasn't happy with how he and his teammates were slow to react defensively and didn't move their feet.

That's usually not a recipe for success, especially on the road, where Edmonton will be for a while now with games coming up at the Devils, New York Islanders, Montreal Canadiens, Ottawa Senators and Winnipeg Jets.

"You're playing against good players and you have to do your job and take care of your own game to have a chance," Ference said. "We didn't do that. We stood around, we watched, we glided around the ice and they took full advantage of it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Clippers given no quarter by Thunder

NBA. Durant scores 29, Oklahoma City roll as depleted L.A. struggles

The Los Angeles Clippers stumbled in their first test without Blake Griffin.

The Clippers announced before their game at Oklahoma City on Sunday that the all-star forward would be out indefinitely because of a staph infection in his right elbow. Without him, the Clippers fell to their most lopsided defeat of the season, a 131-108 loss to the Thunder.

Griffin will have surgery Monday in Los Angeles and will be re-evaluated after the all-star break.

"We're depleted right now, but no one feels sorry for us," coach Doc Rivers said. "I don't feel sorry for us. You got to just figure it out and keep playing."

Kevin Durant scored 29 points, Russell Westbrook had



Kevin Durant shoots over Clippers forward Matt Barnes on Sunday in Oklahoma City. GETTY IMAGES

19 points, 11 rebounds and five assists and rookie Mitch McGary added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder, who shot 52 per cent and moved back above the .500 mark.

McGary, a reserve forward,

had missed most of the season with left foot and leg injuries and had played in only two NBA games. He provided energy with his play, then took it up a notch by flexing and beating his chest to exhort the crowd. At one point, he drew a standing ovation.

"I'm a pretty energetic guy, so usually the crowd gets into it," he said. "I always hear loud fans cheering when I enter the game, even when I don't score or anything like that. I ended up having a good game, and all I could do was get the crowd into it even more."

Westbrook said McGary has put in the time to be ready between rehabbing and playing for the D-League Oklahoma City Blue.

"You see how much work he put in over the past month and a half, two months of recovering and getting himself back in," Westbrook said. "To see him get an opportunity was very exciting."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Man United salvages a point

West Ham midfielder Alexandre Song and Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney clash during Sunday's match at the Boleyn Ground in East London. Netherlands midfielder Daley Blind smashed home an injury-time equalizer to rescue a point for Manchester United in a 1-1 pulsating Premier League game. MIKE HEWITT/GETTY IMAGES

NBA all-star game

Lillard to take Griffin's roster spot

Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard has been added to the all-star team in place of Clippers forward Blake Griffin, who needs surgery for a staph infection in his right elbow.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver added Lillard to the West roster Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Reds reach 2-year deal with Frazier

All-star third baseman Todd Frazier and the Cincinnati Reds have agreed to a two-year, \$12-million contract, avoiding arbitration.

The Reds announced the deal Sunday on Twitter.

Frazier, who turns 29 on Thursday, gets a \$1.5-million signing bonus, a \$3-million salary this season and \$7.5 million in 2016. He had asked for a one-year deal worth \$5.7 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obituary

Legendary Tar Heels coach dead at 83

Dean Smith, the Hall of Fame innovator who won two national championships at North Carolina has died. He was 83.

The retired coach died "peacefully" at his Chapel Hill home Saturday evening, the school said in a statement Sunday from Smith's family. He was with his wife and five children.

Michael Jordan played three seasons for Smith from 1981-84, helping lead the Tar Heels to a national championship in 1982.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Africa

Ivory Coast wins Cup of Nations

Ivory Coast goalkeeper Boubacar Barry saved the day, and then he scored the winner.

The 35-year-old veteran blocked a penalty attempt from opposing goalkeeper Razak Braimah and then stepped up to convert his own to give the Ivory Coast a 9-8 shootout win over Ghana on Sunday in the African Cup of Nations final.

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UFC. GSP continues to slam drug-testing program

Former UFC welterweight champion Georges St-Pierre says the current drug-testing system in mixed martial arts urgently needs fixing.

St-Pierre, a longtime advocate for improved testing, spoke out in the wake of former middleweight champion Anderson Silva testing positive for two steroids.

The 33-year-old from Montreal opted not to say much on Silva, saying it's not his style to kick a man when he's down.

"I feel very sad for Anderson Silva," he offered.

"I don't want to talk about one individual, I want to talk about the system. The system is a big problem in the sport of mixed martial arts ... It's something that I believe the UFC and fighters should confront and deal with it. Because if you don't deal with it right now, it's going to get worse and worse and worse."

MMA needs to model itself after Olympic sports, he said.

"They have random testing and the testing is done by a competent and an independent organization (the World Anti-Doping Association) that has no interest financially in the promotion of (the sport)," he told The Canadian Press.

MMA drug testing is usually



Georges St-Pierre THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

carried out by state or provincial athletic commissions. The Nevada State Athletic Commission, for example, carried out the out-of-competition test on Silva in California last month.

That test was paid by the UFC, given that Silva was preparing for UFC 183.

Commissions traditionally take a percentage of the gate of fight cards they oversee. Nevada, for example, gets six per cent of the total gross receipts from admission fees, plus three per cent of the first million dollars and one per cent of the next \$2 million of total gross receipts from broadcasting rights.

In Nevada, that money goes into the state's general revenue fund. THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across?
Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

You will find it ridiculously easy to get people to do what you desire over the next few days. Take advantage of it.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

The people you will have to deal with today respect facts and figures, so show them your plans and let them know how you can make them work.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

There can be no more excuses for putting off something you should have taken care of a long time ago. You can and you must find a way to get it done.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Try not to let worries and fears get the better of you today. Cosmic activity in one of the more sensitive areas of your chart means you must consciously and continually strive to stay cheerful.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

If you find you cannot handle a task on your own today don't be shy about getting assistance. Friends and family will rally round if you ask them.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you need to communicate with employers or other important people now is the time. You will find it easy to put across your ideas and make a good impression. Make it seem as if it all comes naturally.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Tell the truth as you see it. There will be a lot of confusion over the next few days and much of it will be designed to lead you away from what is going on.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Your attitude towards something will harden today and you will refuse to meet others halfway. That's good. The planets indicate you will only get where you want to go if you know your own mind.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Spell out what it is you are planning to do and let friends and work colleagues know you could do with some assistance. Chances are they will do whatever they can to help.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You need to let someone know you are under no obligation to do their bidding. This may come as a surprise to them as you have allowed them to get away with so much.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

If the plans you made a month back don't seem to be working out the way you intended, trash them today and start again.

♓ Pisces

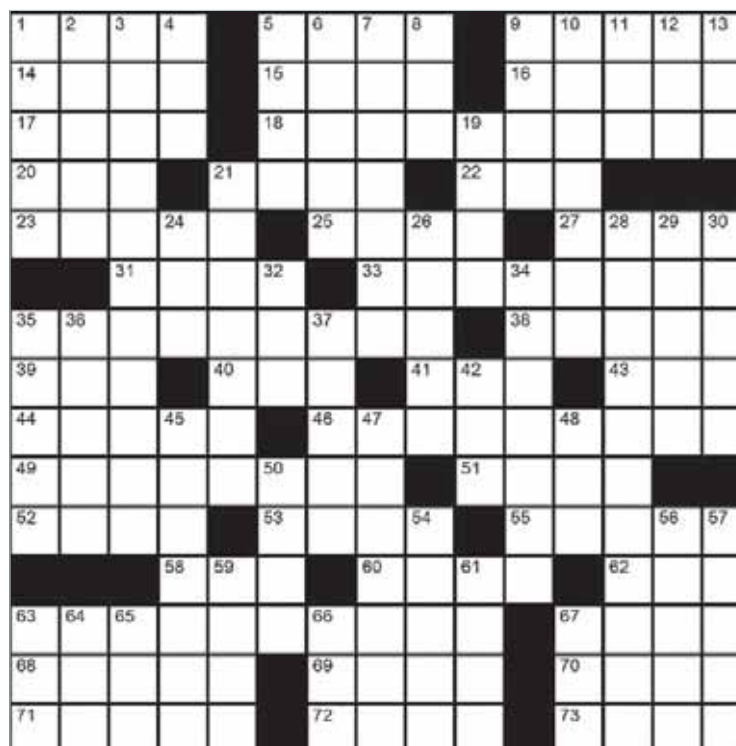
Feb. 20 - March 20

You need to explain to loved ones why you've done certain things. What matters most is that they can see it is part of a plan and not random.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Genesis guy
5. Half
9. 'Talk' suffix
14. Queue
15. Small batteries
16. Succeed: 2 wds.
17. Repair
18. 007 villain played by #45-Down: 3 wds.
20. Bio info
21. Head: French
22. Basketball play, Alley-__
23. Australia's version of a Sasquatch
25. Norwegian city
27. Celebrated waffle
31. __ the finish
33. Restrained
35. Word like Tear or Bow
38. "Madam, I swear I __ art at all." - Polonius, in Hamlet
39. Old English letter
40. Earthy prefix
41. 'Danger' suffix
43. Poet's 'always'
44. Ontario: __ Rock (Lake Superior Provincial Park pictographs attraction)
46. Haida Gwaii, BC: Ancient totems village on Anthony Island
49. Disappears
51. Online journal
52. '70s hit: " __ Tu"
53. Joni Mitchell's "The Last Time __ Richard"
55. Lyre-playing Muse



58. 'Outer'-meaning prefix
60. Barbarian
62. Garbage can
63. James Cameron and David Cronenberg
67. Troubles
68. Oscar-winner Tatum

69. Mater's mate
70. Give out
71. New Age musician
72. __-les-Mouli-neaux, France
73. "Ahem..."

Down

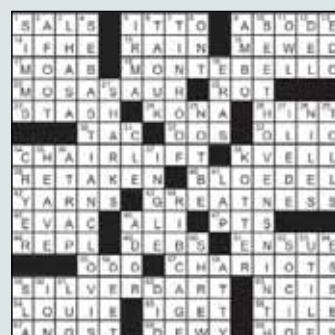
1. Cosmetics brand

2. San __, California
3. #28-Down's heroine Miss Shirley: wd. + wd. + wd. + letter
4. Pre-__ student
5. Marquis de __, "Quills" (2000) role
6. Keep one's __ the ground
7. Her __, Queen

- Elizabeth
8. Sport-on-blades fed.
9. Currency exchange fee
10. Some hairpieces
11. Possibilities
12. Truck type
13. 'Ranch' suffix
19. Swag

21. What police might use to disperse crowds: 2 wds.
24. 'Benedict' suffix
26. Kind of drop
28. Setting of Lucy Maud Montgomery's famous work: 2 wds.
29. Jean __ (The Balcony dramatist)
30. Some smells
32. Head-to-__
34. Pool movie, "The __" (1961)
35. 1, 2, 3... Lift!
36. For Better or For Worse dog
37. Canonical hour
42. PC 'key'
45. As per #18-Across... Canadian actor, Joseph __ (b.1918 - d.2009)
47. "The Jeffersons" star Ms. Sanford's
48. 'Super' suffix
50. __ snag (Become stuck)
54. Soil crawlers
56. Inclines
57. Start
59. Nero's 951
61. " __ can you..." (Anthem opener)
63. Sainte-__, Quebec City sector
64. Celebrity chef Ms. Garten
65. Mr. Dykstra
66. Trombonist Mr. Winding
67. Rapsallion

Friday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Friday's Sudoku



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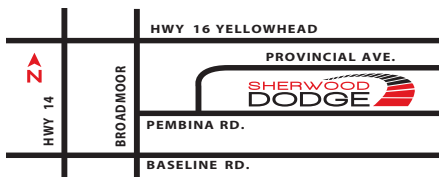
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